

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: LIMDIS  
Document Number: 1975BUENOS01409

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

2/28/75  
Case Number: 200000044

<<<<.>>>>  
[REDACTED]

H028

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01409 282238Z

61  
ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 SP-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 INR-05  
INRE-00 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SCA-01 SSO-00  
CCO-00 USSS-00 SY-02 A-01 OPR-01 SCS-01 /042 W  
-----  
103481

Z O 282215Z FEB 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0110  
INFO USCINCSO  
DOD/DIA WASHDC  
DA (TPMG)//DAPM-CPA//

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1409

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR  
SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF US OFFICIAL: SITREP NO. 20

REF: STATE 045328

1. AMBASSADOR RETURNED AT 1800 FROM ALL AFTERNOON CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES, AMBASSADOR MOLINA SALAS AND OTHER GOA OFFICIALS, LATER IN AFTERNOON INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA JOINED GROUP. CONVERSATION WAS UNSATISFACTORY IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS. AMBASSADOR HAD IMPRESSION THAT GOA OFFICIALS ARE CONVINCED THAT MONTONEROS WILL NOT ASSASSINATE EGAN TONIGHT AS THREATENED. ANSWERS, GEARED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTTEL, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. GOA IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO LOCATE EGAN AND TO SAVE HIS LIFE. ENTIRE POLICE FORCE IN CORDOBA IS INVOLVED IN MASSIVE DRAGNET OPERATION. GOA WILL NOT, HOWEVER, DEAL WITH TERRORISTS. IN ORDER TO STALL FOR TIME, GOA PLANS TO ISSUE STATEMENT DURING NEXT HOUR INDICATING THAT THE FOUR INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN COMMUNIQUE ARE NOT IN GOVERNMENT CUSTODY. STATEMENT WILL ADD THAT EVEN [REDACTED]

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: LIMDIS  
Document Number: 1975BUENOS01409

Page: 2  
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]  
PAGE 02 BUENOS 01409 282238Z

IF THEY WERE, GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ACCEDE TO TERRORIST DEMANDS. MINISTERS NOTED THAT POLICY OF NOT NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS WAS SAME AS U.S.

3. GOA DOES NOT HAVE CHANNLE THROUGH WHICH TO COMMUNICATE WITH MONTONEROS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR ADDED THAT EVEN IF THEY HAD SUCH A CHANNEL, THEY WOULD NOT USE IT, SINCE TO DO SO WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO OPENING DIALOGUE WITH TERRORISTS.

4. GOA WOULD NOT CONSIDER PROPOSING PRESENTATION OF OTHER PRISONERS OR TO GIVING PUBLICITY TO MONTONERO CAUSE IN EXCHANGE FOR EGAN'S FREEDOM.

5. TWO MINISTERS CALLED FEDERAL INTERVENTOR LACABANNE IN PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR HILL TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT POLICE IN CORDOBA ARE SPARING NO EFFORT TO LOCATE EGAN.

6. ROCAMORA HAD ALREADY INFORMED AMBASSADOR HILL THAT FULL INVESTIGATION IS BEING MADE OF ABSENCE OF GUARDS FROM EGAN'S HOUSE AT TIME HE WAS KIDNAPPED. IN TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH LACABANNE, ROCAMORA ASKED FLATLY WHY GUARDS WERE NOT THERE. LACABANNE'S REPLY WAS UNSATISFACTORY AND ROCAMORA INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR THAT INVESTIGATION WOULD CONTINUE.

7. VIGNES ASKED LACABANNE IF HE PLANNED TO REMAIN IN CORDOBA UNTIL MATTER OF KIDNAPPING CLEARED UP. LACABANNE REPLIED IN AFFIRMATIVE, BUT SAID HE PLANNED TO RAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO, A SMALL CITY IN CORDOBA PROVINCE, FOR A FEW HOURS TOMORROW ON INSPECTION TOUR, BUT THAT HE WOULD BE BACK BY EARLY AFTERNOON. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN FAST THINKING ON LACABANNE'S PART SINCE HE HAD EARLIER INDICATED TO CONSUL GENERAL THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT A DAUGHTER IN SAN FRANCISCO (SEE SITREP #14). INSPECTION TRIP OR PERSONAL VISIT, HOWEVER, HE IS NOW COMMITTED TO BE BACK ON JOB WITHIN A FEW HOURS.

8. AS OF TIME AMBASSADOR LEFT FOREIGN MINISTRY, THERE WAS NO CONFIRMATION OF EARLIER UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MONTONEROS WERE SUBMITTING NEW NAMES TO REPLACE ORIGINAL FOUR.

9. MINISTER INDICATED HE WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR THROUGHTOUT EVENING.

[REDACTED]  
Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: LIMDIS  
Document Number: 1975BUENOS01409

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]  
PAGE 03 BUENOS 01409 282238Z

10. MINISTER APPRECIATED RECEIVING CABLE FROM DR. KISSINGER.

HILL  
[REDACTED]

NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED